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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/283,770 03/31/99 ACHITUV

R IR-013

WM02/1102

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EXAMINER

BUGG, G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED:

11/02/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks



Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/283,770	ACHITUV ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	George A Bugg	2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,963,664 to Kumar et al.

As for Claims 1, 13, 18, and 23-24, Kumar discloses (Fig. 2) a set of temporally sequential frames of visual data, each frame representing an image, defining a region, within a panoramic region. Further disclosed (Fig. 2) is the positioning of one or more images, with relationship to the spatial orientation of the panoramic region, while an active image is being displayed. In addition, (Fig. 1, Element 106) shows an output device, which could be any type of video display.

Kumar (Fig. 1) also shows the use of multiple cameras, which would provide at least two non-coincidental images, as well as a plurality of sets of temporally sequential frames, as further disclosed in Claim 13. Also disclosed in Claim 13 is the identification of a branch point, for the purpose of updating an image. Kumar discloses (Col. 17, Lines 13-33) a scene change detection scheme.

Further disclosed in Claim 24, is a readable storage medium, on which is stored one or more computer programs, for producing a visual display, of a panoramic region. Kumar discloses (Col. 4, Lines 58-61) and (Col. 5, Lines 15-17) a computer that is

programmed to function as an image processing system, and a video storage and retrieval system.

Claim 2 discloses one or more context images, being automatically displayed, in a predetermined manner. Kumar teaches (Fig. 7), (Col. 11, Lines 1-3) a hierarchical technique to register images.

Claims 3-4, disclose an order, in which context images are to be displayed. Since the frames representing an image are processed sequentially, and a hierarchy for how those images are displayed, already exists, it is logical to assume that the context images would be displayed, as disclosed in Claims 3-4.

As for Claims 15 and 20, Kumar discloses (Col. 5, Lines 7-9) a single camera providing temporally sequential frames of visual data, while the camera pans across the scene, or "rotates at a fixed location".

As for Claim 16, Kumar discloses (Col. 4, Lines 58-61) and (Col. 5, Lines 15-17) a computer that is programmed to function as an image processing system, and a video storage and retrieval system.

In reference to Claims 5-12, Kumar discloses (Col. 4, Lines 58-61) and (Col. 5, Lines 15-17) a computer that is programmed to function as an image processing system, and a video storage and retrieval system. The use of computer software, and a memory, implies that past and present images can be designated, by user instruction, to perform all functions disclosed in Claims 5-12.

Although Claims 21-22 do not disclose user interaction, or image designation, by a user, they do refer to displaying context images, in a specific manner. It is therefore

implied, that these displays could not take place, without instruction, and are rejected, for the same reasons as Claims 5-12.

Regarding Claims 14 and 19, Kumar teaches (Fig. 2, Element 204) that each overlapping section, of an image, is updated by the new image.

The fact that images can be displayed, while being produced, suggests that an active image is produced in real time.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to show the state of the art, with respect to panoramic displays, and mobile images:

U.S. Patent No. 5,850,352 to Moezzi et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,075,905 to Herman et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,078,701 to Hsu et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George A Bugg whose telephone number is (703) 305-2329. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S Kelley, can be reached on (703) 304-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-5359.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

George A Bugg
Examiner
Art Unit 2613



CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600